

Sub: 1. (Twice Amended) A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising:
an outer sole and an external upper covering a user's foot and lower leg, the external upper comprising a flexible frame made of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material, arranged along determinate directions of forces transmitted during use of the boot, said flexible frame being affixed to both the external upper and the outer sole, the flexible frame comprising a dorsal portion extending from the outer sole substantially up to a top end of the external upper at about mid-height of a tibia area of the boot, and at least one lateral arm laterally connecting an upper end of the dorsal portion to one side of the boot.

B 1 Please amend claim 2 as follows: 2

2. (Amended) A sports boot comprising:
an outer sole and an external upper covering a user's foot and lower leg, the external upper comprising a flexible frame made of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material, arranged along determinate directions of forces transmitted during use of the boot, said flexible frame being affixed to both the external upper and the outer sole, the flexible frame comprising a dorsal portion extending from the outer sole substantially up to a top end of the external upper, and at least one lateral arm laterally connecting the dorsal portion to one side of the boot, said lateral arm spaced above the outer sole at the dorsal portion and extending forwardly from the dorsal portion and connected to the outer sole forwardly of the dorsal portion.

2 Please amend claims 3-7 to depend from claim 1, as follows: 3

3. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein said at least one lateral arm comprises two substantially symmetrical lateral arms.

4. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein each said lateral arm is fixed to the outer sole by a connecting lug, substantially in an area of the metatarsophalangeal joint of the foot.

B 5. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein at least one lateral arm comprises a tightening arrangement.

6. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the dorsal portion laterally comprises at least one lug having a tightening arrangement and is on a level with the top of the external upper.

7. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the dorsal portion laterally comprises two substantially symmetrical lugs.

Please amend claim 13 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 22, as follows:

B 13. (Twice Amended) A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising an outer sole and an external upper overlying the outer sole and covering a user's foot and lower leg, the

external upper comprising a flexible frame made of a substantially non-stretchable material and affixed to the upper and sole, comprising a dorsal portion, extending vertically at the rear of the lower leg, and comprising at least one lateral portion, extending laterally along the foot, connected to said dorsal portion and to the sole, at each of its ends, wherein the external upper extends above an ankle region to about a middle region of a tibia of the user.

B² Please amend claim 14 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 23, as follows:

14. (Twice Amended) A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising an outer sole and an external upper overlying the outer sole and covering a user's foot and lower leg, the upper including a flexible frame made of a substantially non-stretchable material and arranged so as to provide a predetermined moment of inertia along predetermined directions, wherein the external upper extends above an ankle region to about a middle region of a tibia of the user.

Please amend claims 16 and 18-20 to depend from claim 1, as follows:

B³ 16. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the dorsal portion comprises a recess at the level of the front portion of the heel of the foot.

B⁴ 18. (Amended) A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the dorsal portion constitutes a rear piece, and the dorsal portion including at least one lug, and at least one lateral